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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/913,780	01/02/2002	Michel Moulin	58575-277955	3998

7590 09/26/2003

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EXAMINER	
HINZE, LEO T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2854	16

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/913,780	MOULIN, MICHEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leo T. Hinze	2854	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *Leo T. Hinze*. (3)_____.

(2) *Tong Wu, No. 43,361*. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: *11 September 2003*.

Type: a)☒ Telephonic b)☐ Video Conference
c)☐ Personal [copy given to: 1)☐ applicant 2)☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d)☐ Yes e)☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: *1 and 47-87*.

Identification of prior art discussed: *n/a*.

Agreement with respect to the claims f)☐ was reached. g)☐ was not reached. h)☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *Applicant's representative faxed a propsed amendment to the claims. Examiner informed applicant that the amendment would not be entered if officially submitted, as the case is after final and the proposed amendment would raise new issues. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached*.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record
A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews
Paragraph (b)
In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.
All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:
- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:
1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
2) an identification of the claims discussed,
3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
   (The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS – S/N: 09/913/780

1.(Currently amended) A flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate, the system comprising:

(a) a supporting bed;

(~~a~~b) drive means for ~~moving~~ sliding the printing plate on the support bed in a direction of movement ~~over stationary supporting elements~~; and

(~~b~~c) an optical head being movably mounted on a stationary bridge, adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate and being provided for emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate.

47. (Currently amended) A flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate, the system comprising:

(a) a supporting bed;

(b) a carriage for ~~moving~~ sliding the printing plate on the supportin bed in a direction of movement ~~over stationary supporting elements~~; and

(b) an optical head movably mounted on a stationary bridge and adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate, wherein the optical head comprises emitters for emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate.

48. (Cancelled) ~~A flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate, the system comprising:~~

~~(a) an optical head movably mounted on a stationary bridge and adapted to move across a direction of movement of the printing plate; and~~

~~(b) a radiant energy emitting source provided at or in the optical head emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate.~~

49. (Previously added) A flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate, the system comprising:

(a) a supporting bed;

(b) a carriage for ~~moving~~ sliding the printing plate in a direction of movement on the supporting bed.;

~~(b)~~wherein thea support ~~for supporting the flat~~ bed ~~platesetter system~~ is disposed in a downwardly inclined manner with respect to the direction of movement of the printing plate; and

(c) an optional storing and delivery system for a plurality of printing plates having a support and delivery area which is downwardly inclined or inclinable to feed a printing plate by gravitational force onto a support area of the flat bed platesetter.

50. (Currently amended) A flat bed platesetter system for successively imaging radiant energy onto a plurality of printing plates, the system comprising:

(a) a supporting bed;

(b) a carriage for ~~moving~~sliding a first one of the printing plurality of plates in a direction of movement on the support bed;

(~~b~~c) an optical head movably mounted on a stationary bridge, adapted to move across the direction of movement of the first one of the plurality of printing plates, wherein the optical head comprises emitters for emitting radiant energy onto the first one of the plurality of printing plates; ~~and~~

(ed) printing plate positioning means for bringing the first one of the plurality of printing plates into a defined position onto an ~~support~~ area of the support bed prior to imaging, wherein a first positioning element is provided at a first lateral side, second and third positioning elements are provided at the opposite second lateral side, and at least a fourth positioning element is provided at a downstream end of the support area; and

(e) a collapsible stop disposed in a path of movement of the first one of the plurality of printing plates in the direction of movement.

the supporting bed, carriage, optical head, positioning means and stop configured to drive the first one of the plurality of printing plates to an imaging zone while a second one of the plurality of printing plates is being positioned by the positioning means.

51. (Currently amended) A flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate, the system comprising:

(a) a support bed ~~area movably~~ directly supporting the printing plate in a direction of movement;

(b) an optical head movably mounted on a stationary bridge and adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate, wherein the optical head comprises emitters for emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate; and

(c) a drive assembly comprising:

(i) a carriage member for ~~carrying~~ sliding the printing plate,

(ii) an electric linear motor driving the carriage member, and

(iii) an encoding system for defining the position of the printing plate along its path of movement relative to the support bed.

52. (Currently amended) The flat bed platesetter system of claim 51, wherein the carriage member is provided in a center position of a stationary support bed area supporting the printing plate.

53. (Currently amended) A flat bed platesetter system for imaging radiant energy on a printing plate, the system comprising:

(a) a support bed;

(b) an optical head movably mounted on a stationary bridge and adapted to move across a direction of movement of the printing plate; and

(~~b~~c) a carriage for ~~moving~~ sliding the printing plate in the direction of movement on the supporting bed, wherein the carriage comprises at least one radiation intensity detector.

54. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, further comprising bearing means for ~~movably~~slidably supporting the printing plate in the direction of movement.

55. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the printing plate comprises a thermosensitive or photosensitive material.

56. (Previously amended) The system of claim 47, wherein the head comprises a spatial modulator illuminated by at least one of the emitters and an optic forming the image of the modulator onto the printing plate.

57. (Previously added) The system of claim 56, wherein the at least one emitter is a laser emitter.

58. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the carriage includes a longitudinally moving element of a linear motor.

59. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the carriage is supportingly guided by at least one element.

60. (Currently amended) The system of claim 47, wherein the carriage comprises at least one vacuum gripper holding the printing plate at the level of the support bed.

61. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the carriage comprises a carriage member located in the middle of the width of the flat bed.

62. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the system is inclined in the direction of movement of the printing plate.

63. (Currently amended) The system of claim 47, further comprising printing plate positioning means for bringing the printing plate into a defined and centered position on the support bed prior to imaging.

64. (Currently amended) The system of claim 63, wherein the support bed is disposed in an inclined manner, and the printing plate positioning means comprise at least one positioning element provided respectively laterally of athe inclined support ~~area~~ bed and at least one positioning element provided at a downstream end of the support ~~area~~bed where the printing plate can stop its downward slide..

65. (Previously added) The system of claim 64, wherein a first positioning element is provided at a first lateral side, second and third positioning elements are provided at a second lateral side, and a fourth positioning element is provided at the downstream end of the support area.

66. (Previously added) The system of claim 64, wherein at least one of the positioning elements is movable.

67. (Previously added) The system of claim 61, further comprising an encoding system for properly defining the position of the carriage member along its path of movement.

68. (Currently amended) The system of claim 47, further comprising printing plate squaring means to position the plate at a defined longitudinal position on the support bed prior to imaging.

69. (Previously added) The system of claim 68, in which the squaring means comprises two movable elements.

70. (Previously added) The system of claim 68, in which the plate is firmly abutted against a plurality of positioning elements by a friction pushing mechanism.

71. (Currently amended) The system of claim 47, in which a plurality of low-friction elements are arranged to form a supporting bed ~~surface~~ extending the length of the platesetter.

72. (Currently amended) The system of claim 49, wherein the support comprises a supporting surface divided into a loading zone aligned in the direction of movement to receive plates to be imaged, an imaging zone where plates are subjected to radiant energy and imaged, and an ejection zone to receive the imaged plates.

73. (Previously added) The system of claim 72, wherein the loading zone comprises arrays of parallel, longitudinally aligned roller-bearing channels to receive and support plates.

74. (Previously added) The system of claim 73, in which the array is disposed on each side of the path of the carriage.

75. (Previously added) The system of claim 73, in which one of the roller-bearing channels is movable.

76. (Currently amended) The system of claim 72, in which the ~~supporting~~ imaging zone includes a plurality of rows of bearings inserted in solid plates.

77. (Previously added) The system of claim 76, in which a plurality of rows of pressure bearings maintain the plate against rows of precision bearings.

78. (Previously added) The system of claim 77, wherein the pressure bearings are offset in relation to corresponding precision bearings to firmly maintain the plate in the focal plane of an imaging lens.

79. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the carrier is provided with a radiation intensity detector.

80. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the carrier is provided with a detector at its front end to detect the presence of a plate in relation to a track.

81. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the carrier comprises a detector at its tail end to detect the presence of a plate in relation to a track on the carrier return trip.

82. (Currently amended) The system of claim 51, wherein the carrier has a base located under a supporting bed with sliding elements and a protruding section carrying suction cups and disposing the suction cups at the level of the supporting plate area.

83. (Previously added) The system of claim 47, wherein the optical head is located in a container, and a lens, an edge detector, roller bearings, a moving part of a linear motor, an encoder and connectors are all located on a first side of at least one supporting rail, and all connecting conduits are located on a second side of the rail to balance the weight of the optical head.

84. (Currently amended) The system of claim 83, wherein the carriage is attached to the linear motor at the center of gravity of the carriage.

85. (Allowed) A system for imaging radiant energy onto a printing plate, the system comprising:

(a) at least two flat bed platesetter systems comprising:

(i) a carriage for moving the printing plate in a direction of movement over stationary supporting elements, and

(ii) an optical head movably mounted on a stationary bridge and adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate, wherein the optical head comprises emitters for emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate; and

(b) a transport assembly including a feed chain, an exit chain and at least two branch chains located between the feed chain and the exit chain, wherein each of the flat bed platesetter systems is located in one of the branch chains.

86. (Allowed) The system of claim 85, wherein the transport assembly further comprises at least one additional component selected from the group consisting of a loader, a stripper, a plate processor, a bender, a stocker or combinations thereof.

87. (Currently amended) A method for imaging a printing plate with radiant energy in a flat bed platesetter, the method comprising:

(a) providing a flat bed platesetter having a support area, wherein the platesetter comprises:

(i) a support bed,

(ii) a carriage for moving the printing plate in a direction of movement ~~over stationary supporting elements~~on the support bed, and

(ii) an optical head movably mounted on a stationary bridge and adapted to move across the direction of movement of the printing plate, wherein the optical head comprises emitters for emitting radiant energy onto the printing plate;

(b) providing a printing plate on ~~a support area~~the support bed of the flat bed platesetter;

(c) positioning the printing plate on the support ~~area~~bed;

(d) moving the printing plate in a first direction; and

(e) moving a radiant energy emitting head in a second direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction to provide an image on the printing plate.

PP

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Date: September 9, 2003 **Time:** _____ .m. (Minneapolis)

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From: Tong Wu **Telephone Number:** 612/766-6804

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Patent & Trademark Office, Technology Center 2800 (~~Before Final~~)
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Applicant:	MICHEL MOULIN	**Examiner:**	HINZE, Leo T.
Serial No.:	09/913,780	**Group Art Unit:**	2854
Filed:	February 17, 2000		
For:	FLAT BED PLATESETTER SYSTEM	**Docket No.**	58575-277955

Document attached: Proposed claim amendments
FOR INTERVIEW PURPOSES ONLY – PLEASE DO NOT ENTER

If you do not receive all pages, please call the Fax Center at 612/766-1650 or Elaine Raiten at 612/766-8728.